

*Sir William Garstin's Expedition to the White Nile.*—Mr. Stanley S. Flower, Director of the Zoological Gardens at Ghizeh, left Cairo on the 3rd March last on an Expedition sent up the White Nile, by Lord Cromer, to make scientific observations of all sorts, under the leadership of Sir William Garstin. There can be no doubt that this energetic young naturalist, who fully inherits his late father's tastes, will make excellent use of his opportunities. We hope that Mr. Flower will not forget the birds.

*Canon Tristram's Golden Wedding.*—We are sure that members of the B. O. U. and other friends of ornithology will join us in offering congratulations to Canon and Mrs. Tristram on the occasion of their golden wedding, which was celebrated at Durham on the 5th of February last. So far as we know this is an unique event among the brethren of our Union.

## XXII.—Obituary.

MR. THOMAS J. MONK, who died at his residence, St. Anne's, Lewes, on 22nd December last, in his 70th year, was a very fine specimen of the sportsman-naturalist. His collection of Sussex-taken birds was celebrated, and contained some remarkably rare wanderers to Great Britain, such as the (first) Black-throated Thrush, the Red-throated Pipit, the (first) Black-headed Bunting and Rustic Bunting, the (only) Little Bunting, the (first) Scarlet Grosbeak, and the (only) White-winged Lark. Several of these were taken alive by bird-catchers in the vicinity of Brighton and transferred to Mr. Monk's large aviary, an establishment in which he took great pride, and where he attained a large amount of success in breeding and crossing. A good shot and rider, a genial companion, with a fund of racing and racy reminiscences, his loss will be very much felt by those who knew him, both in and beyond Sussex.

Ornithology has sustained a severe loss by the death on

the 25th December, 1899, of Dr. ELLIOTT COUES, in his fifty-eighth year. Although born at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on September 9th, 1842, Coues was educated chiefly at Washington, at the Jesuit Seminary now known as Gonzaga College; he graduated at the Columbian University; and served as Assistant-Surgeon in the United States Army from 1864 to 1873, when he received the special appointment of surgeon and naturalist to the United States Northern Boundary Commission, which surveyed the line of the 49th parallel from Lake of the Woods westward to the Rocky Mountains. Of the subsequent six years a portion was passed in Washington, in the preparation of a report on the above Survey; after which he was sent to Arizona as secretary and naturalist of the U.S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. Incidentally it may now be mentioned that Coues had been elected Professor of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy at Norwich University, Vermont, in 1869, and this training was of great use to him in the preparation of his numerous and important works on zoology; he also held the Chair of Anatomy at the National Medical College in Washington from 1877 to 1886. A perfect glutton for work, Coues never neglected an opportunity offered by his service on the coast or on the frontier; and after making every allowance for "devilling" with regard to the references in such books as 'The Birds of the North-West' and the various instalments of 'The Bibliography of Ornithology,' even then his personal work must have been prodigious. Every successive edition of his 'Key to North-American Birds' marked epochs in ornithological progress, while the mere list of his contributions to science would fill at least a couple of our pages. And, be it remarked, all this work was solid, and not vamped up to swell the total, as is too often the case at the present day. There is no need for enumeration of it in 'The Ibis,' inasmuch as the share which Coues took in the advancement of ornithology is almost as well known in Great Britain as in America, and the regret felt here for the loss of a man of such genius is nearly equal to that which is experienced by his own countrymen.

EDGAR LEOPOLD LAYARD, C.M.G., who died at Budleigh Salterton, Devon, on January 1st, was elected an Honorary Member of the B.O.U. in 1860, and was therefore one of our oldest as well as one of our most valued correspondents. He was born at Florence on July 23rd, 1824, and entered the Civil Service of Ceylon when twenty-two years of age; but after nine years his health gave way, and in 1855 he accepted the invitation of the late Sir George Grey to a post in the Civil Service at Cape Town. There he founded the South-African Museum, and became its first curator; after which he accompanied Sir G. Grey on a special mission to New Zealand, and subsequently became judge and commissioner under the Slave Trade Treaties at the Cape. Transferred to the Consular Service, he was for some years at Pará, at the mouth of the Amazons; next he was sent to Fiji, where he arranged the cession, and was decorated in 1875; he then resumed Consular Service at Noumea, New Caledonia, and ultimately retired after forty-seven years of hard work. Layard was not a producer of many books, and his chief work in this line was 'The Birds of South Africa,' published in 1867, of which a new and revised edition, with the collaboration of Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, made its appearance between 1875-84. It is rather by his many and varied contributions from 1854 almost to the time of his much regretted death that he will be remembered; and a column of closely-printed type in the General Subject-Index to 'The Ibis' testifies to his energy in our special subject. Besides these, his bright and pleasant letters to 'The Field,' under his own name or the pseudonym of 'Bos Caffer,' will be familiar to most of our readers; and his genial personality will be greatly missed and regretted by all who have had the pleasure of his acquaintance.